

Appl. No. : 10/789,629
Filed : February 27, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:
 - a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;
 - an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;
 - an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second channel;
 - at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the second axle-positioning member; and
 - at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle [[The apparatus of Claim 1,]] wherein the at least one axle is molded integrally at a first end as one piece with the first axle-positioning member.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]] 2, wherein a second end of the at least one axle is received in a socket formed in the second axle-positioning member.
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:
 - a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;
 - an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;
 - an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second channel;
 - at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the second axle-positioning member; and
 - at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle;
 - wherein a second end of the at least one axle is received in a socket formed in the second axle-positioning member and [[The apparatus of claim 3, wherein]] the second end of the at least one axle is tapered, or the socket is tapered, to facilitate the entry of the at least one axle into the socket.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;

an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second channel;

at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the second axle-positioning member; and

at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle [[The apparatus of Claim 1,]] wherein the outward facing surface of each channel has a substantially V-shaped cross-section.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein each V-shaped cross-section opens toward its respective channel.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein each V-shaped cross-section opens away from its respective channel.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]] 5, further comprising third and fourth spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the outward facing surface of each channel has a substantially V-shaped cross-section.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein each V-shaped cross-section opens toward its respective channel.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;

an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second channel;

at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the second axle-positioning member; and

at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle;

further comprising third and fourth spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

wherein the outward facing surface of each channel has a substantially V-shaped cross-section; and

[[The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein]] each V-shaped cross-section opens away from its respective channel.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]] 5, wherein the support structure further comprises a flat projection from an upper surface thereof, the flat projection being adapted to engage mounting hardware to secure the apparatus along the side of a conveyor.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;

an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second channel;

at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the second axle-positioning member; and

at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle;

[[The apparatus of Claim 1,]] wherein the support structure further comprises a third channel in an upper surface thereof, the third channel being adapted to engage mounting hardware to secure the apparatus along the side of a conveyor.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]] 5, further comprising a plurality of axles.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;
an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second
channel;

at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the
second axle-positioning member; and

at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle
further comprising a plurality of axles;

[[The apparatus of Claim 14,]] further comprising at least one spacer positioned on at least one of the axles so that rotatable elements on at least one of the axles are offset with respect to the rotatable elements on adjacent axles.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the at least one spacer is formed integrally with one of the axle-positioning members.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor,
comprising:

a support structure including first and second spaced channels, an outward facing
surface of each channel including features adapted to matingly engage a bending tool;

an elongated first axle-positioning member slidably engaging the first channel;

an elongated second axle-positioning member slidably engaging the second
channel;

at least one axle extending between the first axle-positioning member and the
second axle-positioning member; and

at least one rotatable element mounted on the at least one axle;

[[The apparatus of claim 1,]] wherein the axle-positioning members have notched edges that facilitate curving of the axle-positioning members.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 17, wherein the axle-positioning members are flexible about an axis parallel to the at least one axle.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 17, wherein the support structure is rigid, such that it will not bend under loads applied during normal use, but the support structure is also bendable, such that it may be bent into a curved configuration prior to use.

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20. (Previously Presented) A support structure of an apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

an elongate rail having a substantially C-shaped profile;

a first branch of the C-shaped profile including a first channel; and

a second branch of the C-shaped profile including a second channel spaced from the first channel; wherein

an outward facing surface of each channel defines a V-shaped profile that is adapted to matingly engage a bending tool such that the rail is adapted to be bent without distorting either channel.

21. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 20, wherein each V-shaped profile opens toward its respective channel.

22. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 20, wherein each V-shaped profile opens away from its respective channel.

23. (Previously Presented) A support structure of an apparatus for guiding articles moving on a conveyor, comprising:

an elongate rail having a profile shaped substantially as two C's arranged back-to-back;

each C including first and second spaced branches, each of the first branches including a first channel, each of the second branches including a second channel; wherein

an outward facing surface of each channel defines a V-shaped profile that is adapted to matingly engage a bending tool such that the rail is adapted to be bent without distorting either channel.

24. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 23, wherein each V-shaped profile opens toward its respective channel.

25. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 23, wherein each V-shaped profile opens away from its respective channel.

26. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 23, further comprising a wall extending upwardly from an upper surface of the rail.

27. (Previously Presented) The support structure of Claim 23, further comprising an open channel in an upper surface of the rail.